CLATSOP

Description of Astoria and Clatsop Plains

Oregon Spectator, Nov. 11, 1847, 2:3

"Sketches of Oregon, No. 4. Astoria.

After rambling and scrambling along the beach of the bay-like indentation of the Columbia river below Tongue point, and then climbing throughthe interlaced brush to the fir-covered ridges of the mountain to avoid precipitous bluffs and the encroachments of the flood tide, we found ourself at the end of a morning's tiresome walk on a knoll near the river bank, that some thirty odd years ago constituted the foundation of one of the bastions of Fort Astoria. There are little evidences remaining of the once strong post that guarded an infant trade in its dangerous adventures in the heart of the wide wilderness. Change has laid violent hands upon the stockades and bastions, and the mildness of unsuspicious peace with the cornucopia of the humble and more useful arts, have converted into more agreeable forms the harsh appearances of other times.

Astoria--or Fort George, as it was called after it fell into English hands during the last war--the early history of which has been so admirably told by our distinguished countryman Washington Irving, is as yet but a small settlement, but its favorable site and nnmerous advantages incline us to the belief that it will one day be the home of a large and prosperous population. We would no confine Astoria to the single claim of Messrs. Shively and Welsh, for it must encompass in its growth, the seaward jutting point, the commanding heights, the gentle slopes and pleasant vales from 'Young's Bay' to 'Tongue Point.' This must be a natural consequence of the situation of that piece of country, constituting as it does, at various periods of the year, a tolerably good harbor for shipping. The requirements of commerce and its connection therewith will necessarily mould its character and facilitate the development of its resources.

The soil about this section of the country is very good, and its productive qualities are fully tested by aundant crops. We might instance those of Messrs. Shortess, Welsh, Col. M'Clure, and others. Among many pleasant things that attracted our notice, we were glad to observe that our fellow-citizens who have settled in and around Astoria, appeared to be highly satisfied with their situation and prospects. Truly, this is a happy circumstance, for 'a rolling stone gathers no moss,' and no settler should undertake to plant his stake without carefully considering his changes for contentment and satisfaction. After passing a few happy hours in the agreeable society of the hospitable Astorians, we proceeded across 'Young's Bay' To visit the famous

CLATSOP PLAINS.

We quickly ascended the 'Skipanoun,' and successfully accomplished the variety of crooks and turns necessary to its navigation, and landed two miles from its mouth, at the residence of Mr. Raymond.... Onward we went for a couple of miles...and reached the commencement of the 'Plains.' It was a pleasant sight aswe stood at the edge of the timber and looked out upon the open and seaward-stretching country beyond us, with its snug looking farm-houses and cultivatedfields. Why this section of country is called 'plains,' we do not know, and perhaps the misnomver is of little consequente... The settlement known as 'Clatsop,' extends along the coast about twenty-five miles, and its greatest width is not quite two miles. A succession of luxuriantly grass-covered ridges or gentle 'divides'--as thought the waves of the sea, as they rolled landward, had been suddenly transofrmed into productive soil--traverse it lengthwise. Between these 'divides' are the plains, or valleys, of various breadth, and the hand of art, assisting nature, has made them beautiful in the

prolific growth of the necessaries of life. Wild clover and nutricious grasses cover the elevations and valleys, which afford unfailing sustenance to large bands of cattle that are continually roaming at large over them, and are a certain profit to their owners. Back near the borders of the forest are extensive cranberry marshes, which, in the proper season, furnish abundant supplies of this most desirable delicacy; indeed, almost every settler there has his cranberry patch upon his claim.

We could tell much of the productiveness of the Clatsop soil did we deem it essential; we could say that we had seen the largest kind of potatoes, and 'heaps' of them, raised with but little labor and attention--one of which, taken without any selection from a heap of such, we find weights two pounds, and measures over ten inches in length, and four inches through.... Well, whilst Clatsop produces her abundant crops, she can boast particularly of her vegetables, part of a cargo of which the bark Whiton has taken to regale the poor Californias upon, and paid down the ready 'rhino' for them. Let the people of Clatsop go on in improving, and avoid the trouble-creating administration of Lynch-law, and they will , most assuredly, enjoy a high degree of prosperity."

CLATSOP

Clatsop Plains described

Oregon Spectator, 3 July 1851, 2:6

"Mr. Editor:

Sir--Having seen, a short time since, a request for people residing in different parts of the country to write you descriptions of the same, I have concluded to give you a small sketch of Lexington and theClatsop Plains...

Our place (Lexington) is small. It is not a city, nor do we make any pretentions as to it being such; but we think here that our location for a small portion of the business of the country is equally as good as many of the would be cities of Oregon.

In the first place I will state where Lexington is situated, and what are the prospects for a village. It is laid out on the west bank of the Skippernown creek, two miles from its mouth and nine miles from Astoria, and lies in a southeasterly direction, two miles from the Columbia river, and two miles from the sea shore; the Clatsop Plains lying between the village and the beach. Said Plains are about one mile wide and fifteen miles long, extending suth along the beach from the mouth of the Columbia river. A large portion of these Plains is in a high state of cultivation. There is much more produced than is consumed on the plains--the surplus has to find a market; the greatest portion goes through Lexington to Astoria. There is no road, however, by land, to Astoria. Lexington is the most convenient place to get to water, there being a good road from the Plains to it. The Skippernown is large enough to admit a light draft steamboat as high as Lexington without any difficulty. The weather during the summer is delightful; the sea breeze blowing fresh from the ocean more or less every day; accompanied occasionally with refreshing showers, giving vivacity and health to the inhabitants.--There is a post office established here, and a weekly mail from Astoria.... Here are to be found all the dainties of life--butter, cheese, and milk of the best quality, and all the other comforts that can be found in Oregon. The farmers here are as accomodating as you will find anywhere. To persons desiring it, the ocean offers a good place for bathing. P. E. D."

ASTORIA, GRAYS BAY; CLATSOP PLAIN, CLATSOP COUNTY

Oregonian, June 16, 1855, p. 2, col. 4-5

"For the Oregonian.

Mr. Editor:--Astoria is a locality renowed as far as Washington Irving's writings are read or remembered....

Gray's Bay is the entrance of a fine river, and makes the width of the Columbia, below Tongue Point, near ten miles....The shallowness of the water escept in a narrow channel, it being on the north side, and the roughness of the country around, have prevented its settlement.

Chinook Point...Washington...

The port of Astoria is the best below Tongue Point. The ship captains having found out its advantages have long since adopted it--and especially since the south channel has been used exclusively. This has made the town a place of trade for the country.... A depot for sea steamers engaged in the mail service up the coast, must be established here, forthwith.... Surveys have been made and sites selected for the construction of forts on both shores for the protection of the harbor in time of war. These are to be at Point Adams and Cape Disappointment. A Marine Hospital must be erected at Astoria...

In looking to the private enterprises which follow or accompany such improvements, and which at once create the population and wealth of the country, there are ample facilities here for their increase and development. There are already more saw mills in Clatsop county than in any other in the territory. The land is not excelled in fertility by an other region, and there is a fine back country through which the military road passes toconnect Astoria with the Willamette valley by land. The growth of Astoria is slow but sure; a number of substantial houses are built every year. It is now the county seat, and a fine court house will soon be completed. Its position and natural advantages place it beyond the reach of competition;...When the road is completed it will be accessible from the Willamette valley at all seasons, and independent of the close of navigation, by ice in the Columbia, which sometimes happens. A good road would now afford communication with the seat of government in shorter time than by water, and at less expense.

The Clatsop Plain is a feature in this region, and remarkable for fine farms on the coast, extending to Killamook from the mouth of the Columbia. Young's Bay, with the rivers flowing into it, and the lands adjacent, are as desirable locations for any business as can be found. There are several of the best mills in the country on its waters. Without wishing to depreciate any other portion of Oregon, it may fairly be conceded that Astoria has before it the certainty of a wealthy and prosperous career."

CLATSOP COUNTY

Statistics on population, farms

Oregon Statesman, 25 April 1851, 2:4

"Population &c of the several Counties of Oregon.--We extract the following from the report of Daniel O'Neil, Assistant Marshal:...

Clatsop county--population 462--91 houses--24 farms--2 mills--5 deaths."

In 1844 Clatsop District (or county; the words were used interchangeably in early Oregon) was created by the Oregon Provisional legislature. Three years later, ~~Newly arrived~~ a new

(Clatsop District was originally created June 22, 1844, and included all of western Washington as well as western Oregon. Five days later, all parts of the district north of the Columbia were cut off from it because of the objections of the Hudson's Bay Company to the extension of the Provisional Government's authority into an area the Company considered outside American jurisdiction. In December, 1845, an act defined the line dividing Clatsop and Tualaty Districts as commencing "in the middle of the main channel of the Columbia River at Oak Point mountain ... thence south to a supposed line dividing Yamhill and Tuality disctircts; thence west ... to the Pacific Ocean; thence north along said line to the mouth of the Columbia and the place of beginning". (Oregon Archives, 1843049, p.36.)

~~George H. Atkinson~~ was told by a resident "lately become a Christian" and formerly a merchant from Burlington Iowa, that "they have from forty to fifty families on Clatsop, within 20 miles distance of extremes. They have two day schools... and two Sabbath Schools. The settlers are raising potatotes and the English grains except wheat. Dairies are very good. Market from ships is more than equal to the supply..."
The next day he made a visit to the Plains in company with one of its residents. They paddled across Young's Bay from Astoria, and two miles up the Skipanon River, "the banks of which are fringed with rank grass. This part winds through the belt of tideland, which is three fourths of a mile wide to the timber". They stopped at several homes, were rowed across a small lake among the dunes and visited the farm of W. H. Gray, who had come to Oregon with the Whitman's in 1836 and to the Plains in 1845. His farm was the 640 acres formerly owned by the Methodist mission, and on it he raised dairy cows.

He and others think these Plains are to be thickly settled on acc't (account) of the commerce. It is a delightful region at this season, calm bays & rivers, green wood & hills & prairies, abundance of all things, magnificent landscapes and waterviews. [(Diary of Rev. George H. Atkinson " OHQ XL (June 1939)pp.174-178)] feature

plains to the north where, balked by the sands from entering the Columbia at its mouth, it turned sharply and flowed south again between the second and first ridges and entered the ocean within 100 feet of its rise. A description of the plains and of Neacoxie Creek is found in the correspondence of Charles Stevens, writing in 1854:

The country is perhaps the most curious that you ever saw. Just take your map and find Point Adams, at the mouth of this river [e.g. the Columbia] and run down the coast 20 or thirty miles ... here is a high sand ridge, and handsome beach where you can drive a horse and Buggy, or a dozen of them together the whole length. About half a mile back of this ridge is another and about one fourth that distance from this is a third ridge which runs the whole length of the Plains, just as straight as the lines on this paper. These ridges are narrow on top, hardly wide enough for two wagons to pass, and from ten to 30 feet high. ... A small stream rises in the hills at the south end of the plains and runs directly north nearly the whole length of the plains then turns west, then south, back to the south end, into the Ocean, and in the whole course, north and south is not over three fourths of a mile apart. This is prairia [sic] country, but is not prairia soil, for here it is sand mixed with black loom [loam] with large deposits of sea shels etc... This country is all open to the Ocean subject to the sea winds which in the winter comes like a tornado, I expect. [Letters of Charles Stevens, edited by E. Ruth Rockwood, OHQ XXXVIII (March 1937) p.81]

The Neacoxie was, as its course would indicate, a sluggish stream. In one part it would spread out to form a shallow lake; at another it made a bog, known by the settlers as Cranberry Marsh, too wet in seasons of the year for cattle to run in it, but productive of a native cranberry.

This was Clatsop County's first settled farming area, and when the first settlers arrived, they expected its proximity to the Columbia's entrance and the commerce they anticipated for the region's principal maritime port, would make it a flourishing community.

In 1850 the census-takers reported the population to be 462 & There were 91 houses, 24 farms, and 2 mills. (Oregon Statesman 25 April 1851) ~~One of the two mills was known as the Columbia~~ ~~present~~ Most if not practically all of the farms were located between the Lower Falls and Clark River and the coast, and the Plains from the Columbia to Tillamook Head.

In this number may have been included about 60 to 100 soldiers at Astoria in that year.

Visiting the Plains in 1854, Charles Stevens reported "This part of the country ... really looks like living. It has been settled about ten or twelve years, and the farms look as well as any in Illinois with better fences, and less weeds by fifty pr cent than you have in the states. The farmers will rais from one to two thousand bushels of the nicest Potatoes that ever eat or ever see, many of them have from ten to twenty acres of Oats, and some of them a few acres of wheat. Garden sauce grows fine here, and in fact everything that is needed grows to perfection here. Wheat looks just as well here as any that I ever saw in Illinois, but vines and Corn, will not do anything..." ("Letters" OHQ XXXVIII (March 1937) pp 80-81.)

Stevens was wrong or misinformed about wheat growing ~~as wheat~~ on the Plains however. It did not do well; as Mr. Atkinson had been told seven years earlier, "Soil on Clatsop or its vicinity to the sea renier the wheat crop poor". (OHQ XL (June, 1939) 173) The early settlers raised some of this grain which they boiled for cereal or parched for coffee. There breadstuffs otherwise were brought down the Columbia from Vancouver or Oregon City. There was a grist mill erected on the Neacoxie ~~in the forties, and probably about 1847.~~ probably about 1847.

⇨ although this is based upon the thinnest kind of evidence - the Oregon Statesman in 1854 reporting on the number of flouring mills in Oregon, of which "a large majority" have been built within the last two years, noted one for Clatsop County

7, 12 (next page)

TILLAMOOK

Road, Tualatin Plains to Clatsop Plains

Oregon Spectator, 24 February 1858, 1:2

"An act to locate a Territorial road leading from Tuality plains, to Clatsop Plains.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the House of Representatives of Oregon Territory, That S. Plomondoe, J. Tuller, and J. Lampson be appointed Commissioners, to view out, and locate a Territorial road, from Tualatin Plains to Clatsop Plains, commencing at the Territorial road, leading from Portland to the Falls of the Yamhill river, where said road passes through B. Q. Tucker's Plain. Said Commissioners shall meet at Columbia, in Tualatin Plains, on the third Monday in May next, and proceed forthwith to view out and locate said road. And in case a vacancy occurs or the Commissioners fail to meet, as provided for in this bill, the Governor is required to fill any such vacancy, and set another day for the Commissioners to meet, to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

Sec. 2. That said Commissioners be required to make returns of the location of said road, to the Clerk of the County Court, in the respective counties, through which said road may pass.

Attest. Robert Newell,
C. W. Cooke, Clerk. Speaker.

Approved, 20th December, 1847.
GEO. ABERNETHY."

Oregon Spectator, Jan. 6, 1848, p. 2, col. 3

Editorial note that '"An act to locate a Territorial road from Tualatin plains to Clatsop plains," passed the House."

TILLAMOOK

Astoria to Willamette Valley, proposed road

Oregon Spectator, 12 December 1850, 3:2

"Oregon Legislature... the council...
Mr. McKean from committee of roads and highways, reported a bill to establish a territorial road from Astoria to the Willamette valley. Read a second time and committed to committee of the whole."

Oregon Spectator, 16 January 1851, 3:1

"Territorial Laws....
An act to create a Territorial road from Astoria to the Willamette valley."

Oregon Spectator, 20 February 1851, 3:1

"List of Laws...Laws enacted at the regular session for the years 1850 and 1851....
An act to locate a Territorial road from Astoria to the Willamette Valley....
An act supplementary to an act entitled 'An act to locate a Territorial road from Astoria to the Willamette valley.'"

Oregon Spectator, 27 February 1851, 3:1 (repeats above reference)
Oregon Spectator, 6 March 1851, 3:5 (repeated of Feb. 20 and 27 list)

Oregon Spectator, January 7, 1854, 1:2

"Legislative. In the council. Dec. 20....
The amendments of select committee to the bill for a territorial road from Astoria to Willamette Valley, were agreed to."

CLATSOP COUNTY--DESCRIPTION

Oregon Statesman, 2 April 1853, p.3

"Prospect Hill.

Lewis & Clark's river, Clatsop Co., O. T.

Mr. Editor:--Thinking that a few facts...might prove interesting... This part of Oregon has been greatly neglected; its great and almost inexhaustable resources are comparatively little known, and remain in a great measure undeveloped, although it possesses advantages of climate, soil, and scenery equal to any other part of thish highly favored country. The climateof this section is very healthy;... In summer the air is kept in a cool and pleasant state by the prevailing north-west winds, which begin to blow about nine or ten o'clock in the morning...

The soil is very fertile and well adapted to the cultivation of grain as well as vegetables; it is a rich black loam from two to five feet depp, the subsoil being mostly clay; the land for the most part, I believe, is free from stones, gravel, &c. The country back from the rivers is reported to be much better than that immediately on the banks of the streams, but the bottom land on the rivers is very rich and productive.

The timber of this region consists of fir, hemlock, spruce, cedar, with some alder and maple. The facilities for lumbering are very great, situated as we are, near the mouth of the Columbia river, near which there is bound to be a place of great commercial importance. The timber is easy of access now and will be for a long time to come. The facilities for transportation to the different mills are furnished at present by the rivers, as the interior is not yet settled. ...

The principal export of Oregon will undoubtedly be lumber, and the lumber of this section is equal if not superior to any part of the Territory, besides being near the Columbia river--the great thoroughfare over which the commerce of Oregon will pass--and possessing facilities for shipping and manufacturing unrivaled by any part of this country.

The Tule Land.--This portion of the land of this region is not the least valuable. It is well adapted to grazing purposes, it is always covered with a thick coat of green grass in winter or summer, which, in its natural state is extremely coarse, but when it has been grazed and trampled over by the cattle, it is succeeded by a growth of fine tender grass which is highly nutritious and upon which cattle get fat remarkably quick, and keep in good condition all winter. I have seen better and fatter beef growing on these tide lands than I have ever seen on upland pastures. The yield of milk I do not think is so great, but it is of a much better quality, being very rich. Timothy, clover, and other grass seed thrive very well; timothy and clover especially, grows remarkably well, as I have seen by experiments that have been tried on this river. A great portion of the Tule land is entirely free of timber and underbrush, and although the extreme high tides of winter overflow a great part of it, still this difficulty could be obviated by a levee, say three feet high and three feet wide, thrown around a given spot, which would be a sufficient protection from the water and render the land fit for cultivation, and the experiments that have been tried prove conclusively that vegetables could be raised on Tule land as well if not better than on the uplands; but for meadow land it is unrivaled. The most of the valuable claims have been taken, but in the language of the celebrated Razor Strop Man, 'There are a few more left of the same sort.'

Pro Bono Publico."

quote,

("Pro Bono Publico" to Edtr, Oregon Statesman 2 April 1853)

(Pro Bono Publico" to the Oregon Statesman etc.)

TILLAMOOK

Astoria to Tualatin Plains, proposed road

Oregon Spectator, 3 October 1850, 2:3

"We have been informed by Mr. Samuel Culver and Lieut. Wood, who reached this city a few days since, that they have been for the past two weeks viewing and taking observations of the country between Astoria and the Tualitin Plains, with the view of ascertaining the practicability of opening a road from the former place to the foot of the latter.

The climate is represented as superior to almost any other portion of the territory. It is mild and pleasant, and, durinf the hot months of summer, is less subject to the severity of drought; whilst, at the same time, it is protected from the cold sea breezes by the coast range of mountains.

The country, instead of being, as is generally supposed, an entire mountainous district, is nothing more than a succession of gently sloping hills, beautifully diversified with clear running streams, affording an abundance of water power.

With a few exceptions the hills are of easy grade. The clearing out of the heavy masses of timber appear to be the only obstructions. This is an important move for Astoria, and we hope the anticipations of the undertakers may be fully realized.--Its impracticability hitherto has been considered settled and sure. It was truly an adventure, and we think that Mr. Culver and Lieut. Wood deserve much credit for their untiring perseverance in the matter."

Oregon Spectator, 24 December 1853, 2:6

"House, Monday, Dec. 12, 9, A.M.

...Mr. Power submitted a report from the commissioners to open and locate a road from Astoria to Tuality plains; referred to select committee--Powers, Richardson and Fulkerson...."

TILLAMOOK

Road, Willamette Valley to mouth of Columbia

Oregon Spectator, 4 [5] December 1850, 2:2 (Gov. Gaines)

"Governor's Message...Oregon City, December 2, 1850...
...For the better accommodation of the great and increasing interests of the Territory, it is of the utmost importance that road be established... To connect Puget's Sound with the Columbia river; some point on the Willamette with the mouth of the Columbia; and the Willamette valley with that of the Wumpqua, are among those I would name for the present. Commissioners should be appointed to view, locate, and mark out the principal road, at the expense of the Territory; and the counties through which they pass, required to open and keep them in good order."

CLATSOP PLAINS REGION

Oregon Statesman, November 18, 1851, 1:5-6

"For the Oregon Statesman.
Lexington, O.T., Oct. 23, 1851.

Mr. Editor, Sir--Thinking that some description of this part of Oregon would be of interest to your readers, and especially to the late emigrants, I take this opportunity to write a few lines.

In the first place, I will state from what authority I make the following statements:

In the first place, I have resided in this vicinity over two years, and I have traveled about considerably, and I have taken pains to enquire and find out all that I could from others who have traveled in various parts of the country.

Commencing at the mouth of the Columbia, on the south side, is Clatsop Plains, extending for fifteen miles to the south. On the coast there are about two miles of bushy country, when you come to the Cape Lookout Mountains, which extend easterly for twelve or fifteen miles. The soil of the Plains is light and sandy, well adapted to the growth of grass and vegetables. The Plains are well watered; the average width is about one mile, and is occupied by claimants. Next is a strip of what is called, by claimants, Cranberry Marsh, which is wet and marshy land--the greater portion so soft that cattle cannot run on it. Then comes the timbered land, which is one body of heavy timber, with the exception of where the streams run through along the bottoms, of which the timber is much lighter and easy to clear, and also some patches of fern prairies around in different parts. I want it understood that the country that I am describing, extends up the Columbia river twenty or twenty-five miles from the mouth, and about fifteen miles to the south.

Now for the water-courses through the country: First, the Nearcoxy, which heads in the mountains to the west of Saddle mountain, and runs west northwest, and empties into the ocean near the south end of the Plains; next, the Lewis and Clark's river, which heads on the south side of Saddle mountain, and runs west, and then bearing round towards the north, and empties into Young's Bay, which is a body of water lying to the west and south of Astoria, back of the hill on which Astoria stands; next comes Young's river, which heads in the northwest side of Saddle mountain, and runs nearly northwest to where it empties in the head of Young's Bay; nest is the Clastani, which heads in the north eastern part of Saddle mountain, and runs first to the north and then bears round to the west, and empties into Young's river about eight miles from the mouth; the next is John Day's river, which must head in the mountains to the northeast of Saddle mountain, and runs northwesterly, and empties in the Swan or Katalamette Bay, two or three miles above Tongue Point. There are also two or three other smaller streams. There are two saw-mills running by water power, and three by steam power; all of which are, or soon will be, doing considerable business. There is but a very small portion of this country taken up by occupants, excepting the Plains, and on the streams that empty into the Columbia as far up as they are navigable for small boats. The most of the claims on the streams are held by single men, and many of them would be glad to have families come and take half of their claims as but few of them are in a situation to hold more than 320 acres. There are a few families located on the streams that would be glad to have neighbors. There is much valuable country up the streams that I have named, above tide-water, that is not claimed, and in many places the bottoms of the streams are from a half to two miles in width, and covered with a light growth of alder timber, salmon brush, crab apple,

elder, vine maple, &c., which is easily cleared and is the most productive land that we have in Oregon, as it never suffers from the drought as the lands of the upper country frequently do.

[From the top of Saddle mountain]...we saw the whole of the Columbia river for about thirty miles from the mouth, the Clatsop Plains, and the ocean breaking on the beach, the whole extent of the Plains and the Tilamook Bay, which is about 60 miles to the suth of the Columbia, and also an extensive prairie country lying to the south-east of Saddle mountain, which must soon settle, as it is about half way between Tualatin Plains and Clatsop Plains, and no mountains to cross in making a road to the mouth of the Columbia; and in fact we saw the whole country spread out...

D. E. Pease." Habeler

cf. W. W. Raymond Rpt. 1854

NEHALEM VALLEY

Morning Oregonian, September 24, 1900, p. 8

"In the Nehalem Country. Prosperity found all along the way. Dairy Business Flourishing--Settlers of Timber Country Pleased With Their Lot.

Pittsburg, Or., Sept. 8.--(To the Editor.)--Before resuming the narrative about the trip through the Nehalem country, it may be well to note some matters of interest along the route already passed over. The story of the entire Willamette Valley applies to the northern Portion of Tualatin Plains, viz., one-quarter of a crop of wheat and one-half to two-thirds of oats. Hay has been uniformly good and bursting barns afford the evidence. The contracts for the Government, obtained by citizens of Washington County have afforded a market for several thousand tons at good prices. Fruit crops generally are much better than last year; but little money is derived by farmer from this source, however, because so few have any considerable amount of fruit of any one kind.

The creamery business is an industry that is beginning to be established, so far with good results, with prospects even brighter in the future. The one at Centerville has been in operation four years, and has a growing business. The Golden Crown Creamery, two miles north of Greenville, has 50 or more patrons, depending upon the season of the year, and the number of cows supplying milk at that place is not far from 300. Patrons as well as managers report conditions satisfactory, which augurs well for an increasing business; but precise information cannot be given except in two instances, because no pains have been taken to keep exact records. In one case a man with four average cows received ruing the month of July $8 45 cash and $7 88 in butter, after reserving all the milk needed for a family of nine persons, six of them children, and 10 mill hands. Another farmer sends milk from 10 cows to the creamery, after reserving cnough for family use, including the making of butter for a family of seven. For several months the average receipts havebeen $27 per month in cash, besides the return of skim milk, which is used in fattening hogs. In three months he fattened six which were sold in the Portland market for $53.

The hop crop will, if present prospects continue, afford considerable income to all who have cared for their yards. By 6 o'clock A.M. from every direction may be heard the rattle of wagons bearing to the yards a burden of young and middleaged folks to engage in picking hops. In this part of the county the rule has been made that picking shall begin at 7 o'clock A.M. and stop at 6 o'clock P.M., with one hour at noon. Hitherto pickers have been permitted to begin work as early as they desired and work as late as they pleased. The new method, it is thought, will produce better results. In addition to the pickers employed from the neighborhood of the yards, many come from the hill country north and west at a distance of 10 to 40 miles, some carrying camp equipments with them, so as to make the most of the short season they may be employed. The funds thus earned stand the settlers in the timber regions in good stead and supply many needs.

Going northward from the Manning Postoffice, named after Mr. Manning, who built a saw mill here many years ago, up the west fork of Dairy Creek, the ascent of the foothills begins, and, after going between three and four miles, Buxton is reached. A grandson of the original Henry Buxton, before mentioned, lives here. This is a small hamlet, surrounded by heavy timber, and contains one store, blacksmith-shop and a creamery, established in March last. The manager reports conditions to be encouraging. The country roundabout, while rough and wild in many respects, affords good pasturage, and to the extent that it is cultivatedd, yields good returns in root crops. Donald McPherson, born at Colville in the late '30s, has a home here also. As he with his family have gone to the Valley, he could not be interviewed. His father had charge of the

of the Hudson's Bay Company business at Fort Colville for many years, and during that time kept diaries of his daily life, embodying the record of transactions. The writer obtained a hint of these records some time ago, and was hoping to get them, but upon consulting with Mr. McPherson a year ago, it was found they had been accidentally destroyed by fire, this most valuable historical data being forever lost.

Proceeding onward over the range toward Vernonia, a distance of 17 miles, all evidence of home-building disappears, save at intervals of from three to four miles. The timber is second growth red fir, with an occasional cedar, hemlock, maple and white fir, with heavy undergrowth of vine maple, hazel, salal and Oregon grape, intermingled with ferns and wild blackberry vines. The timber as a rule is not large enough for lumber, but would make good piling, as it would average from two to three feet in diamter, and is tall and straight. Desceding the slope towards the headwaters of Nehalem River, the timber increases somewhat in size, but is mainly red fir. While but few home-builders are found along the route traveled, inquiry revealed the fact that the country was all settled, the houses being out of sight of the road, and that small lands were frequently found which were being cleared up and seeded. The further fact was brought out that a large proportion of these settlers were from the prairie states of the Middle West, and largely from Kansas. Frequantly the writer took occasion to comment upon the change from a prairie to a timber country, and to inquire whether it had been satisfactory or otherwise. The response invariably was:

'We are satisfied. It is rough, to be sure, and we have to work hard; but we have something to show for our work, besides we have good health.'

This sentiment was expressed by women as frequently as by men. Since the roads are rough and rarely improved, produce cannot be hauled to market; hence only that is raised to any extent which can be fed to stock, as that can be driven to a market. In the Winter time the roads are well nigh impassable for wagons. This compels all settlers to lay in a year's supply of staple articles at this season of the year. Nehalem River is first touched about three miles south of Vernonia. The river bottom is a rich alluvium, covered with a heavy growth of underbrush, maple, ash, white fir, cedar, and an occasional hemlock and yellow fir. A good deal of clearing has been done, and settlers' homes are more frequent.

At length Vernonia was reached. Two stores, one combination blacksmith and carpenter shop, carried on by an all-around mechic, one church--Evangelical--with probably 50 unpainted houses--perhaps a half dozen exceptions--and a population of probably 35 to 40 persons, is about all the village contains. When in the height of prosperity it had inhabitants to the number of 150, with a weekly newspaper--chiefly maintained by the income from publishing timber-claim notices--and a number of other business places. At one time high hopes were entertained about Vernonia's future by all its citizens, as it was expected that a railroad would be built down the Valley so that there might be connection with the outside world; but since that event did not come to pass, hopes deferred have made many hearts so sick that they left for other parts. A former resident of Portland. T. J. Uhlman, with his family, are living here, and have a good home, surrounded by all the comforts of life.

GEORGE H. HIMES."

Ezra Fisher, writing from Astoria April 1847 but referring generally to the people of Clatsop, he states:

On arriving here the few people of this country were all poort and for the past three years they have brought almost all their breadstuff 125 miles in canoes and open boats, making a trip in 10 or 15 days and camping out in the open air through all their journey; these journeys are often performed in the dead of winter while the rain in falling every day; all groceries and store goods are obtained in this way, except such as are purchased off of ships. The people have just put in operation a mill sufficient to meet the home demand, and the days of privation are fast passing by. ("correspondence" OHQ XVI (Sept. 1915) p.309). [illegible] Philip Gearhart [illegible] who came to the Plains in 1847 first [illegible] rented a log cabin and farm known as the Samuel Banks Hall place, but later occupied by Josiah West. Between 1851 and 1863 he bought almost eighteen hundred acres of the Plains lands of which a part is now Gearhart. In the latter year he [illegible] bought the J.J. Louk claim [illegible] where he lived thenceforth. "Just south of our house on this property " writes his granddaughter Dr. Nellie Byrd, "was one of the first grist mills in Oregon, built on the mill race by Thomas W. Reddick. This was where the Gearharts had their wheat ground. Later a Mr. Packard had one of the first saw mills on the same site." (Paper presented by Dr. Nellie Byrd at Gearhart Centennial... Octover 2, 1948.)